

Government Administration and Elections Committee

State Of Connecticut

**Spoken
3/25/13**

Re: Bill # 6672, Section 8

My name is Helena Jedlinsky, I'm secretary of the Board of Directors of Grace Meadows the senior low to moderate income housing in Southbury, CT. I have lived in Southbury for 37 years & in CT for 52 years.

I am here to speak in favor of Section 8 of Bill # 6672

Housing for the low to moderate income seniors in Connecticut is in high demand. Southbury has at present eighty-eight units at Grace Meadows designed and built between 1985 & 2004. The complex is for all persons aged 62 years or older who meet the financial guidelines, a portion also accept handicapped or disabled of any age. The entire facility is designed for independent living within a non-medical supported environment. Since its inception the waiting list for moving into the complex has been between 100 & 300 applications. At present the wait list is 145.

GM I & II financed by USDA Rural Development and GM III & IV is financed by US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The entire complex is managed by Elderly Housing Management with an on-site Administrator and staff to provide administrative and maintenance services to the complex and its residents. The property is owned by the Town of Southbury which leases it to Grace Meadows.

The Board of Directors (unpaid) of the complex is comprised of local individuals of various backgrounds, ages and interests. The Town of Southbury supports and endorses the concept and presence of Grace Meadows and its expansion.

The GM Board of Directors assisted by the Town of Southbury has completed a thorough search for appropriate property for expansion. The parcel of land represented in Section 8 of Bill # 6672 on the Southbury Training School (STS) campus has been identified as fitting the need ideally. It has the much needed reasonable access to town water, sewer and natural gas. The property of 45 acres is in one corner of the STS property and would allow for appropriate access to seniors via route 172. The property will soon be vacated from use by STS. With the State of Connecticut's commitment of this land for low & moderate income senior housing, Grace Meadows Board of Directors would initiate the process of acquiring federal housing dollars to build approximately 90 apartments for appropriate seniors & disabled persons.

The transfer of this parcel of land from the State of Connecticut to the Town of Southbury for the express purpose of building senior housing units would benefit all seniors in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention & interest,

Respectfully,

Helena M. Jedlinsky
03-24-13